

Atty Dkt No. PL08146.107  
USSN: 08/844,215  
PATENT

### REMARKS

The forgoing Amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. In particular, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been withdrawn and the only remaining issue is the use of the language "degenerate variant thereof." As discussed with the Examiner, applicants have deleted this term and have framed claims 31, 48 and 56 with reference to the polypeptide sequences encoded by the nucleic acid molecules. Thus, the basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph has been overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Please direct all further written communications regarding this application to:

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**FAX RECEIVED**  
**AUG 26 2003**  
**GROUP 160**

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

8/25/03

By:

  
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